

Meteorological overview of the 2021 and 2022 DCTOSS deployment

Rei Ueyama¹, Ken Bowman², and Ju-Mee Ryoo^{3,1}

¹ NASA Ames Research Center

² Texas A&M University

³ Science and Technology Corporation

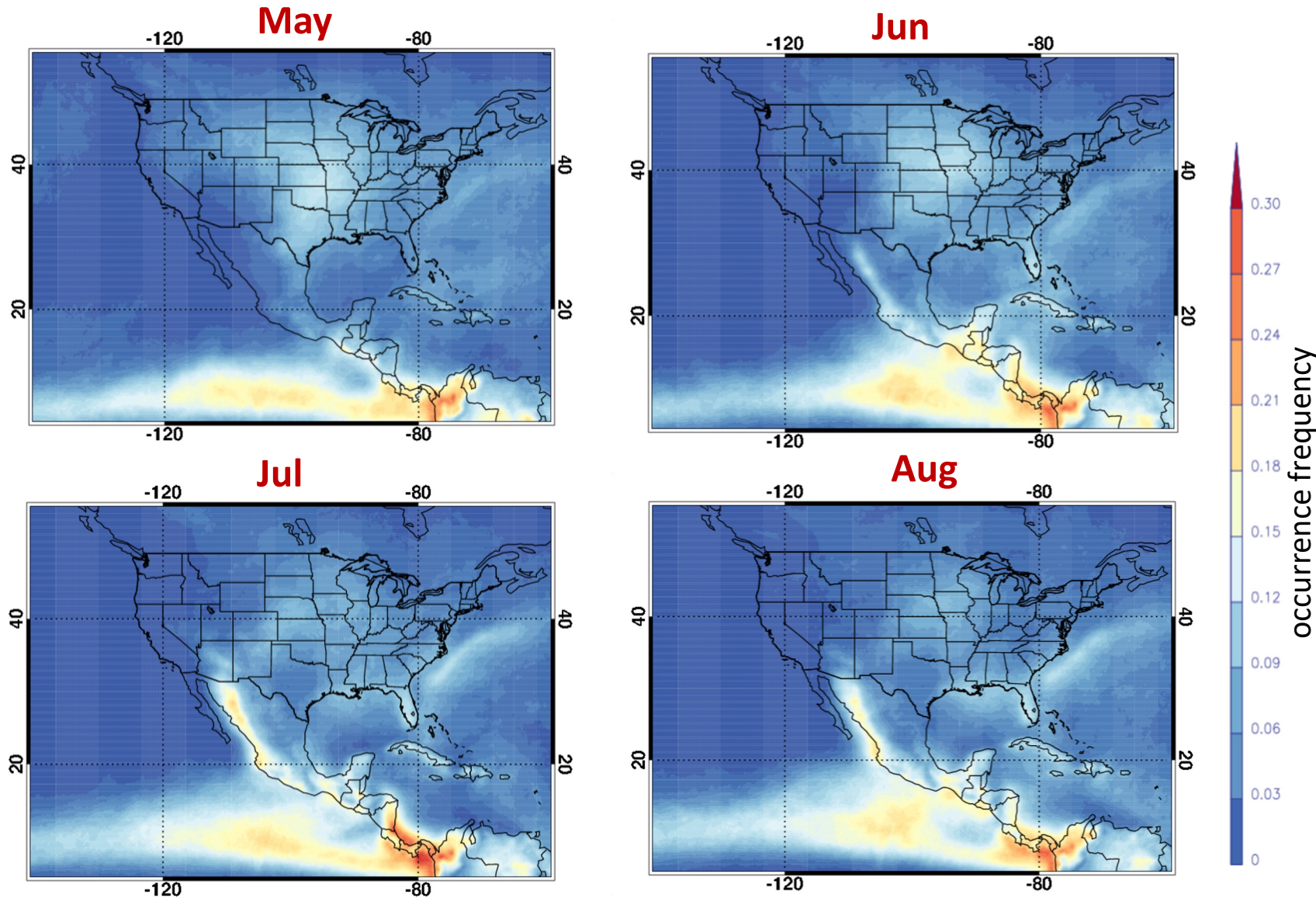
Special thanks to Luis Millán for the MLS data and plots!

Topics

- Convective activity over the North American Monsoon region
- Overshooting convection over CONUS
- North American Monsoon anticyclone (NAMA)
- Lower stratospheric tracers (O_3 and H_2O) over NAMA

Convection occurrence frequency (2006-2022)

(GPM MERG IR brightness temperature < 235 K)

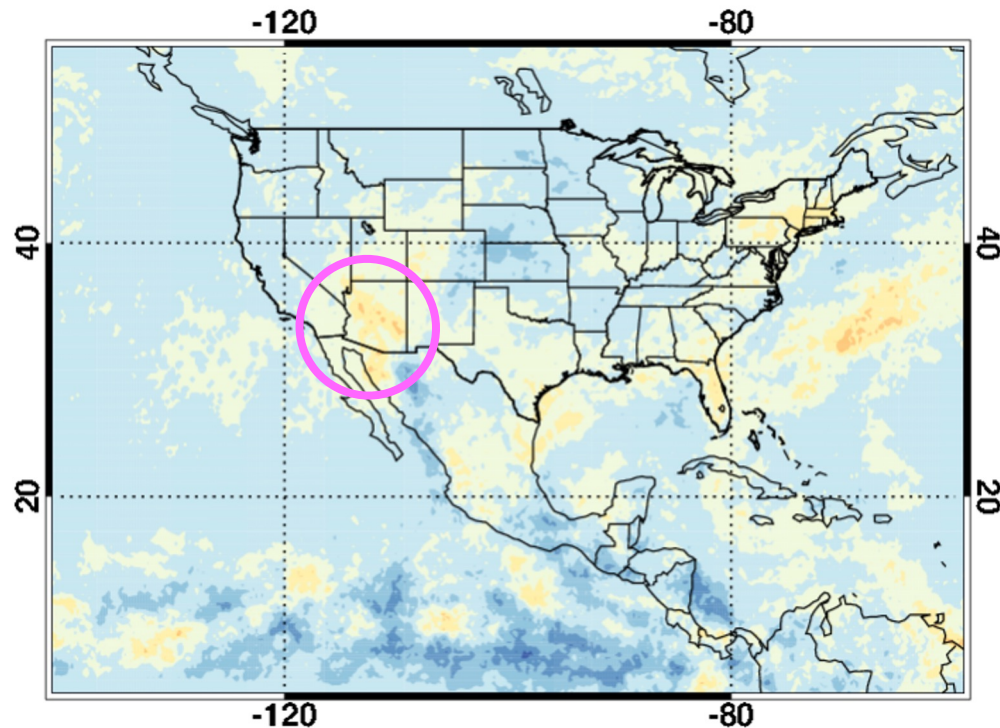


- Relatively frequent convective activity over the Central Plains in May and June
- Convective activity over Sierra Madre peaks around July and August

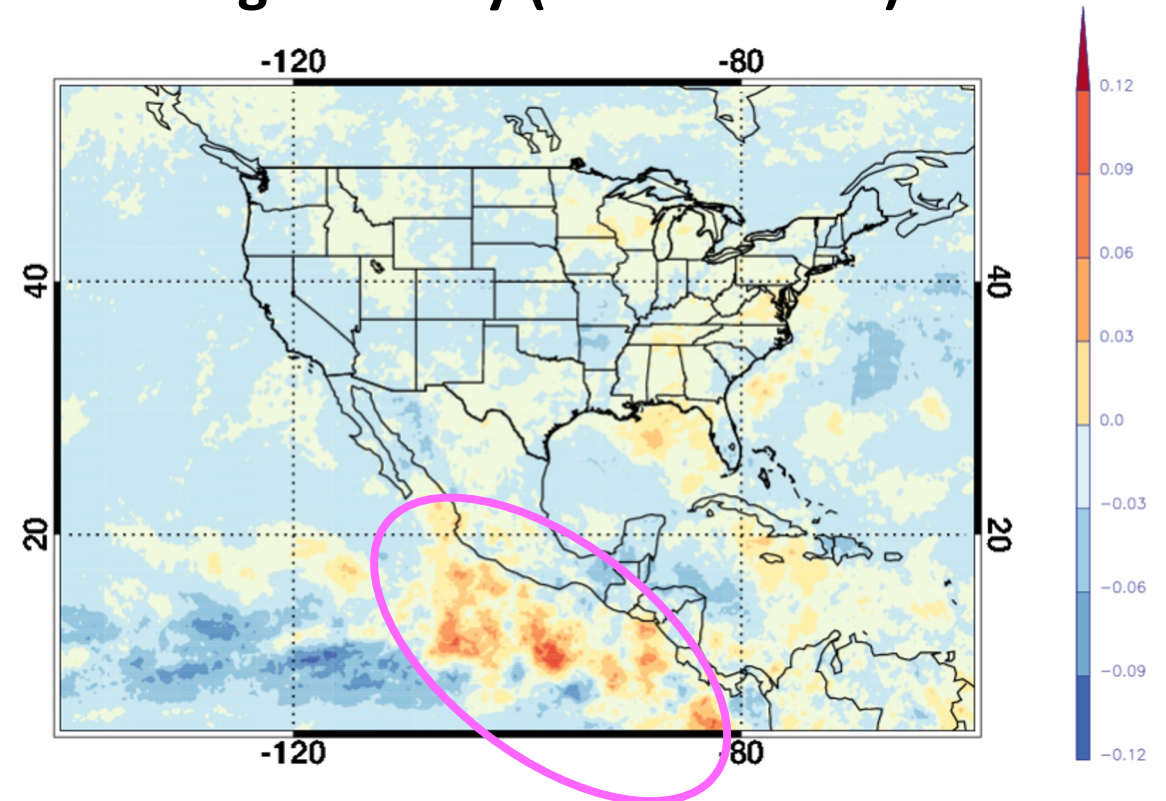
Convection occurrence frequency (2021 deployment)

(GPM MERG IR brightness temperature >235 K)

July anomaly (2021 - climo)



Aug anomaly (2021 - climo)

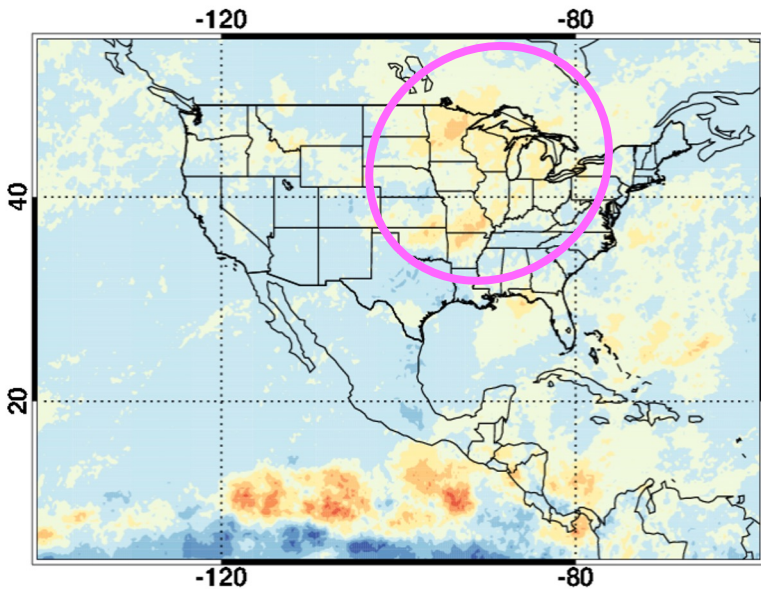


- Convective activity is slightly below average in Jul 2021, except for small enhancement over southwestern U.S.
- Convective activity over CONUS is similar to climatology in Aug 2021, but more frequent over the tropical eastern Pacific (closer to the coast).
- Mexican convection shows regional anomalies, but overall close to climatology or slightly weaker in northern Sierra Madre.

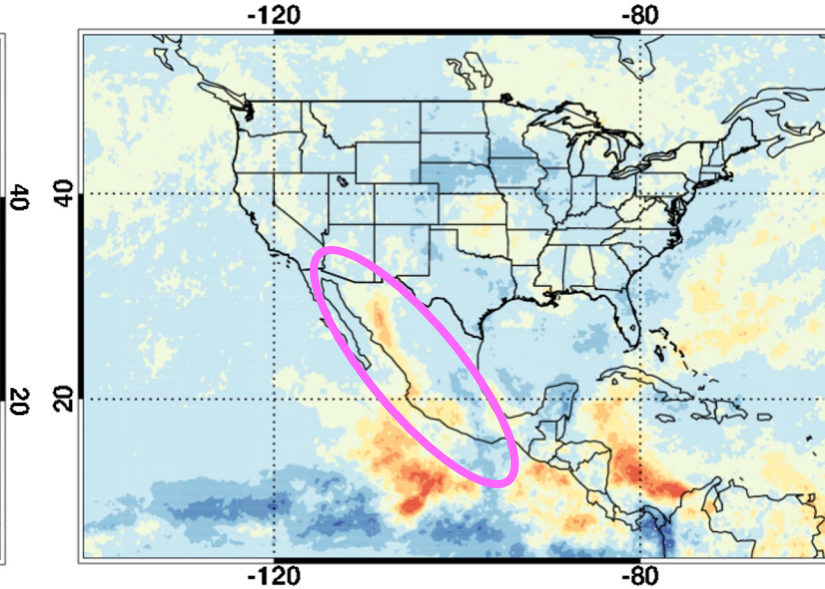
Convection occurrence frequency (2022 deployment)

(GPM MERG IR brightness temperature >235 K)

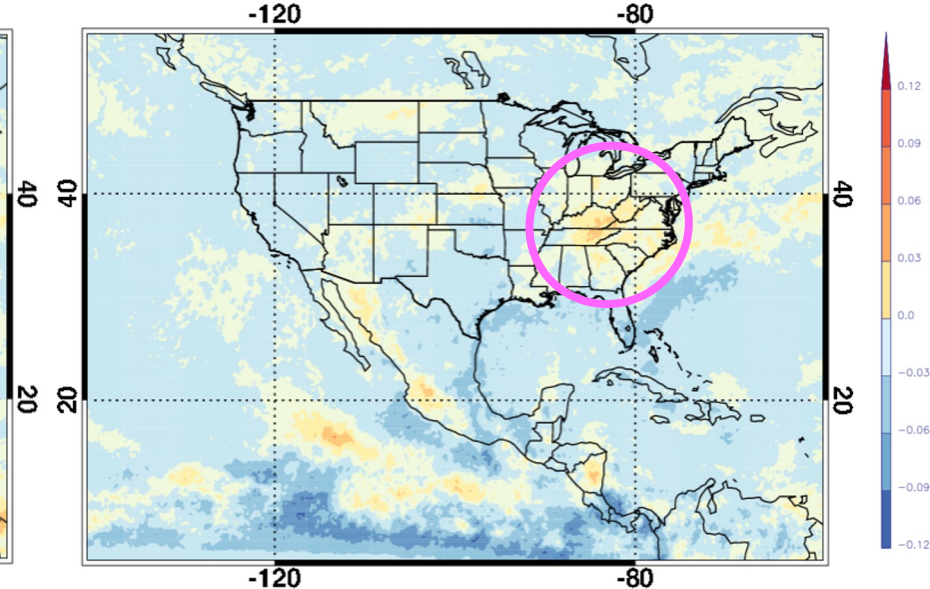
May anomaly (2022 - climo)



Jun anomaly (2022 - climo)



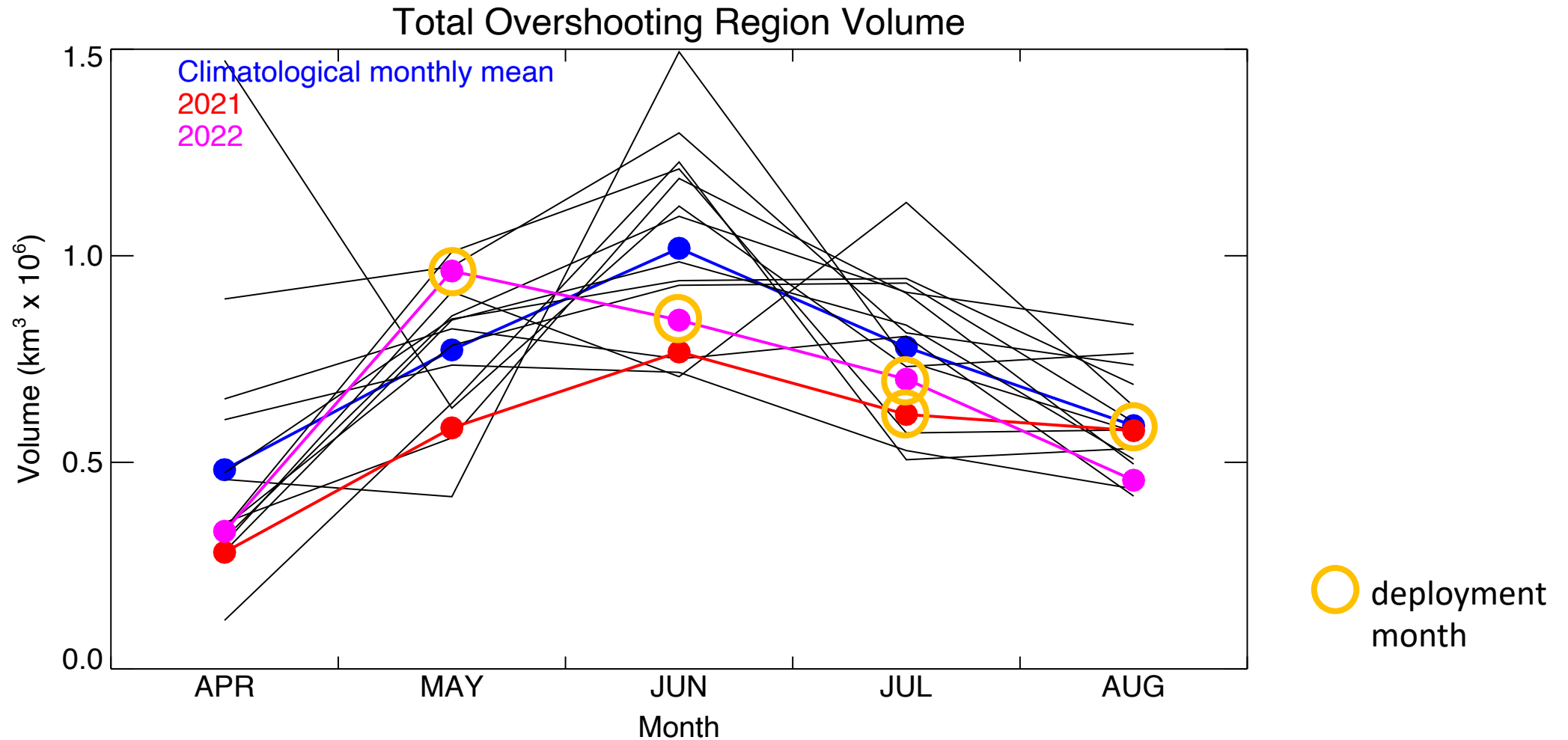
Jul anomaly (2022 - climo)



- In May 2022, above average convective activity is seen over the Midwestern U.S.
- Convective activity over CONUS is slightly below average (especially near Nebraska, Iowa) in Jun 2022.
- Anomalous frequent convection is observed over the Sierra Madre in Jun 2022 (early start of Mexican convection).
- Slightly enhanced convective activity is seen over Kentucky/Tennessee in Jul 2022.

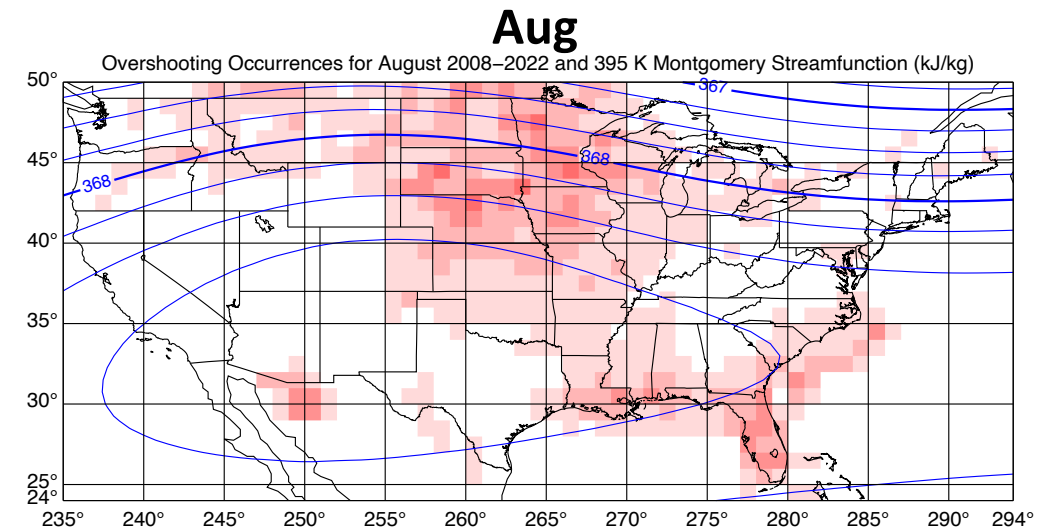
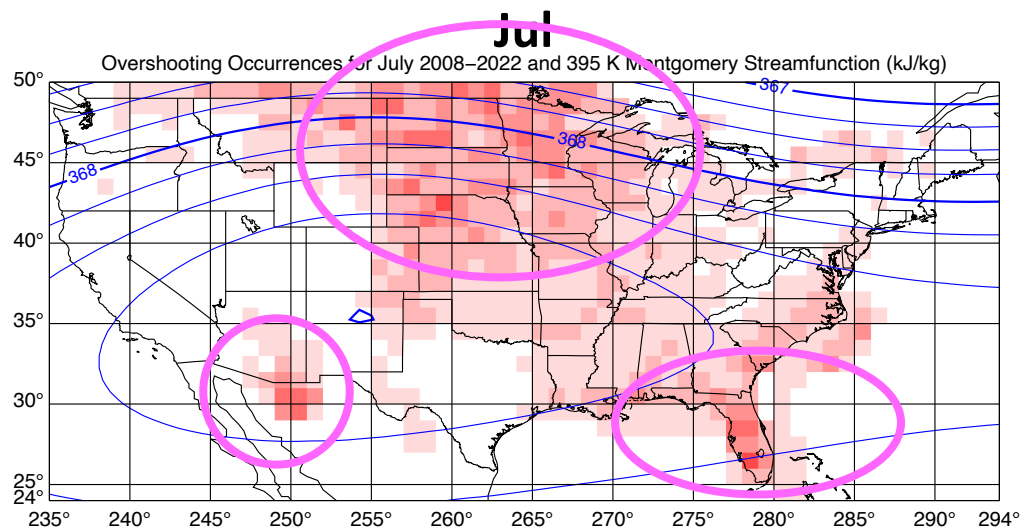
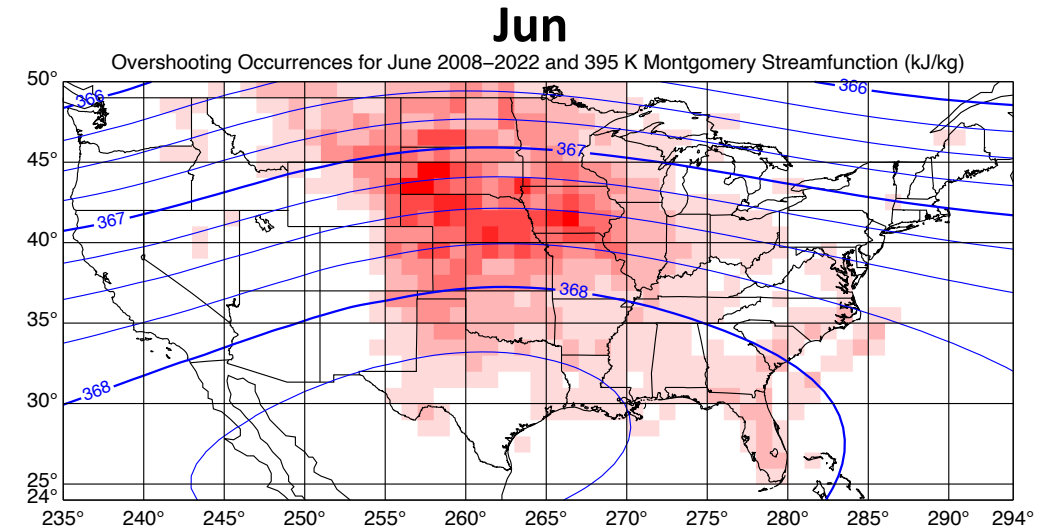
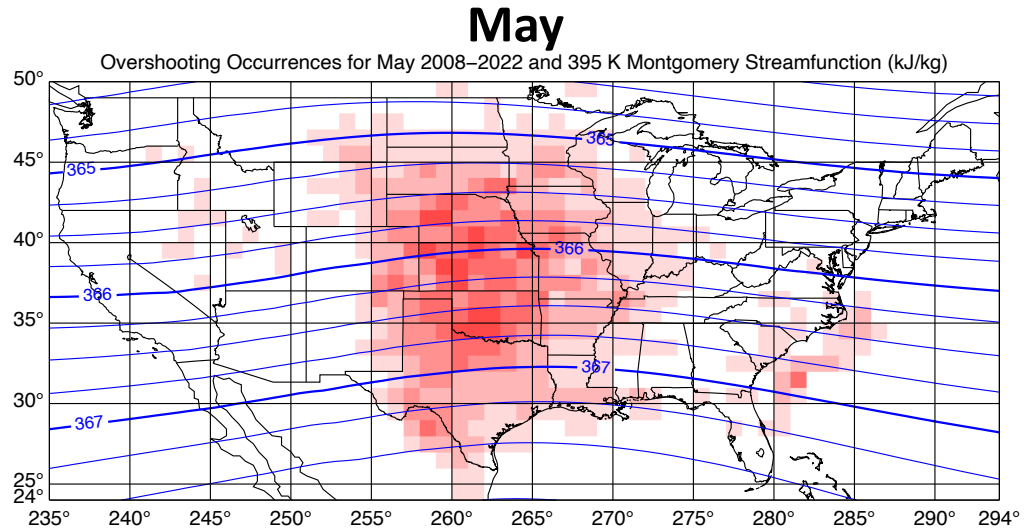
Overshooting convection frequency (2008-2022)

Radar and overshoot climatology using GridRad v4.2



NAM anticyclone and overshoot convection (2008-22)

ERA5 streamfunction and GridRad-based overshoot occurrence



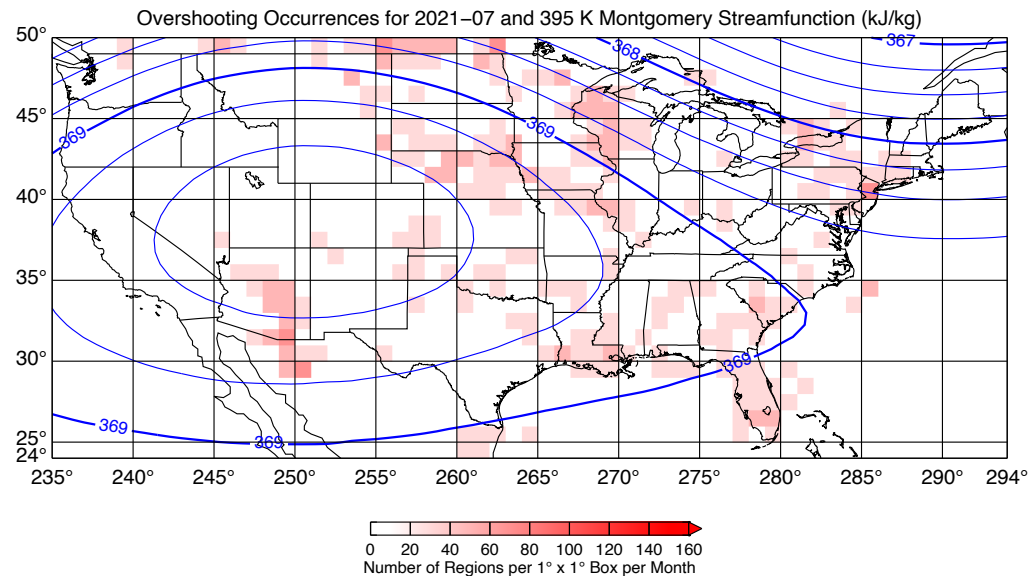
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
Number of Regions per 1° x 1° Box per Month

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
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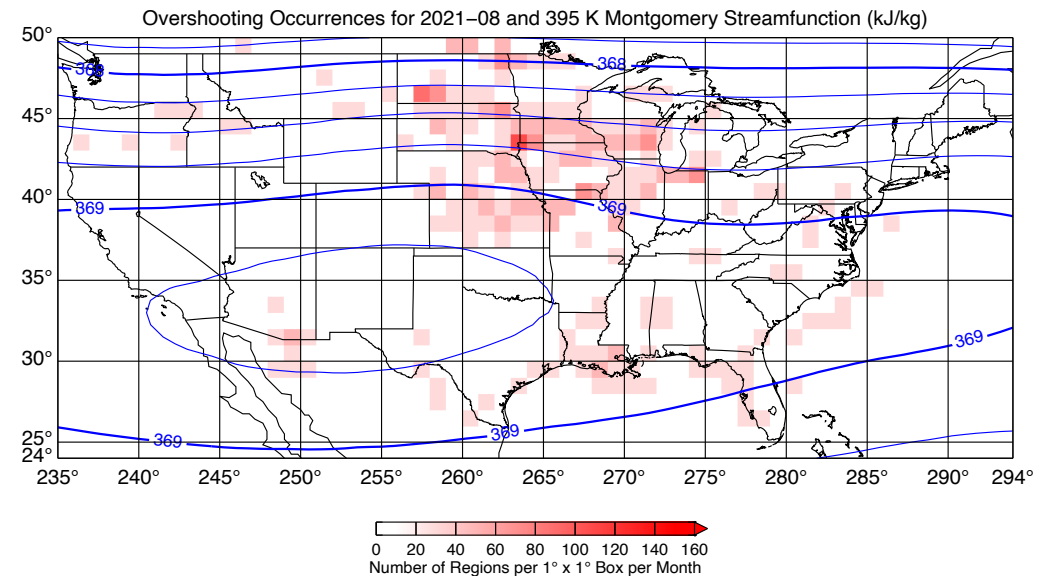
NAM anticyclone and overshoot convection (2021)

ERA5 streamfunction and GridRad-based overshoot occurrence

Jul 2021



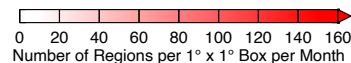
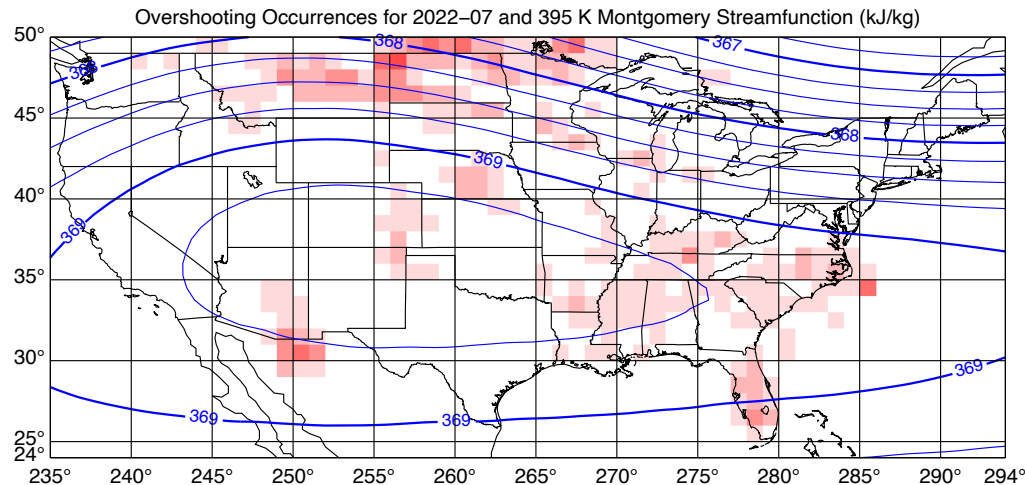
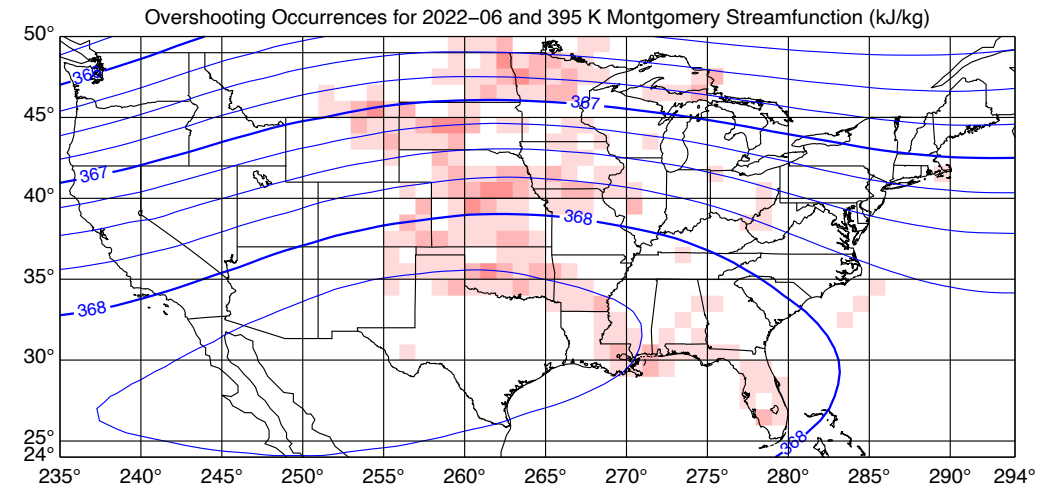
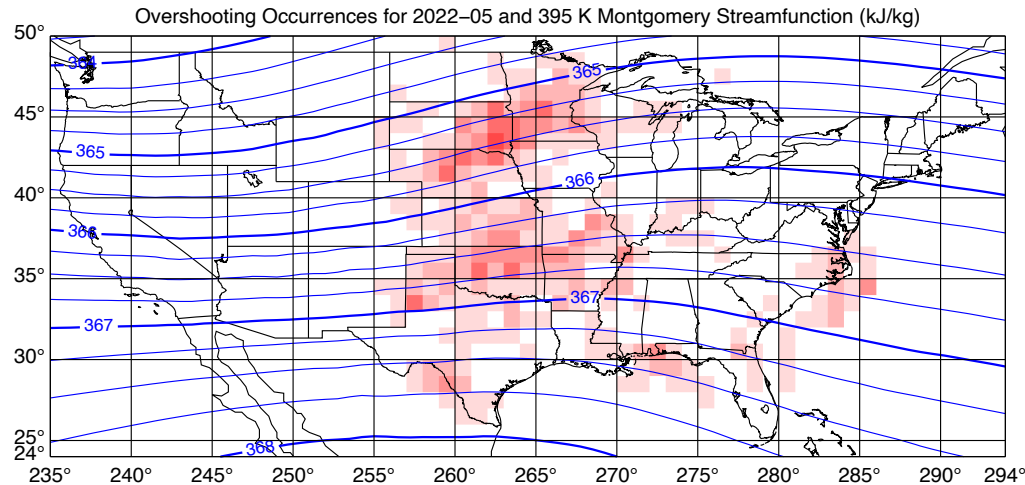
Aug 2021



- Strong NAMA and below average overshoots in Jul 2021
- Pattern of overshoot occurrences in Jul 2021 is similar to climatology, but relatively more overshoots in SWUS and less over the Midwestern U.S.
- Broad NAMA in Aug 2021 with overshoots focused over the Midwestern U.S.

NAM anticyclone and overshoot convection (2022)

ERA5 streamfunction and GridRad-based overshoot occurrence

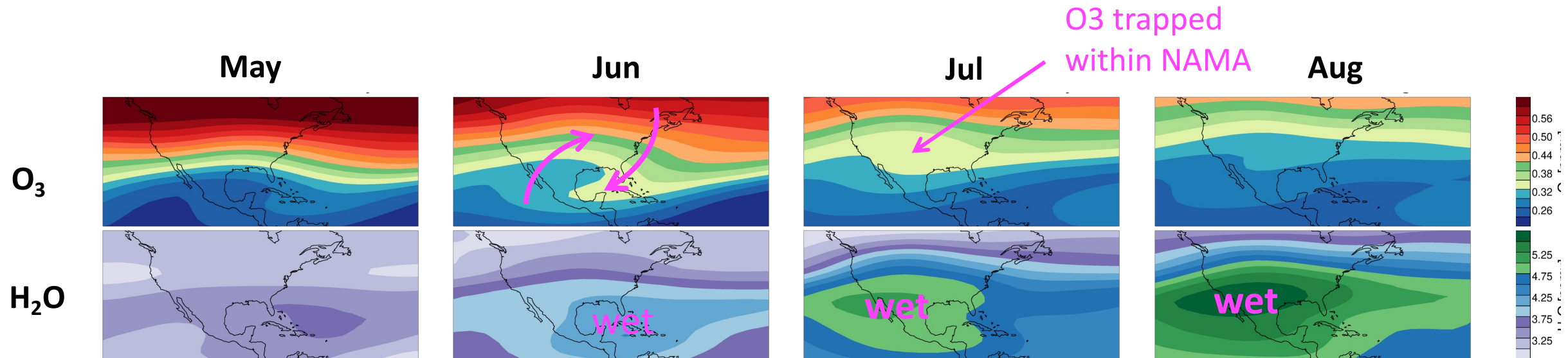


- Many overshoots in the Central Plains in May 2022 (two bands similar to brightness temperature pattern), leading to above average occurrence.
- Occurrences diminish in June (opposite of climatology)
 - NAMA in May and Jun 2022 were similar to climatology.
- Pattern of overshoots in Jul 2022 shows the three centers as in climatology, but relatively increased occurrence over Kentucky, Tennessee. NAMA was anomalously strong.

Lower-stratospheric O₃ and H₂O (2005-2022)

Aura MLS tracers at 390K

(courtesy of Luis Millán)

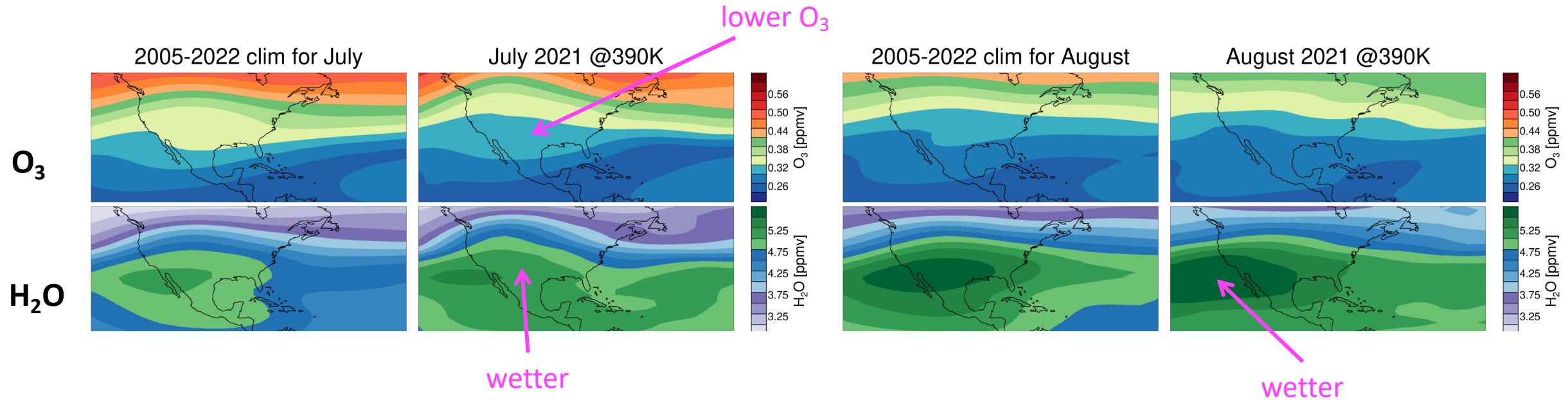


- NAMA perturbs the tracer fields in the lower stratosphere.
- O₃ and H₂O distributions are relatively zonally symmetric in May.
- As NAMA develops in June, high O₃ (and low CO) air is transported equatorward on the eastern side (vice versa on the western side). H₂O begins to increase within the anticyclone.
- H₂O is significantly enhanced inside the NAMA in July and August.
- Relatively uniform O₃ is observed within the NAMA in July, with decreasing concentration in August.

Lower-stratospheric O_3 and H_2O (2021)

Aura MLS tracers at 390K

(courtesy of Luis Millán)

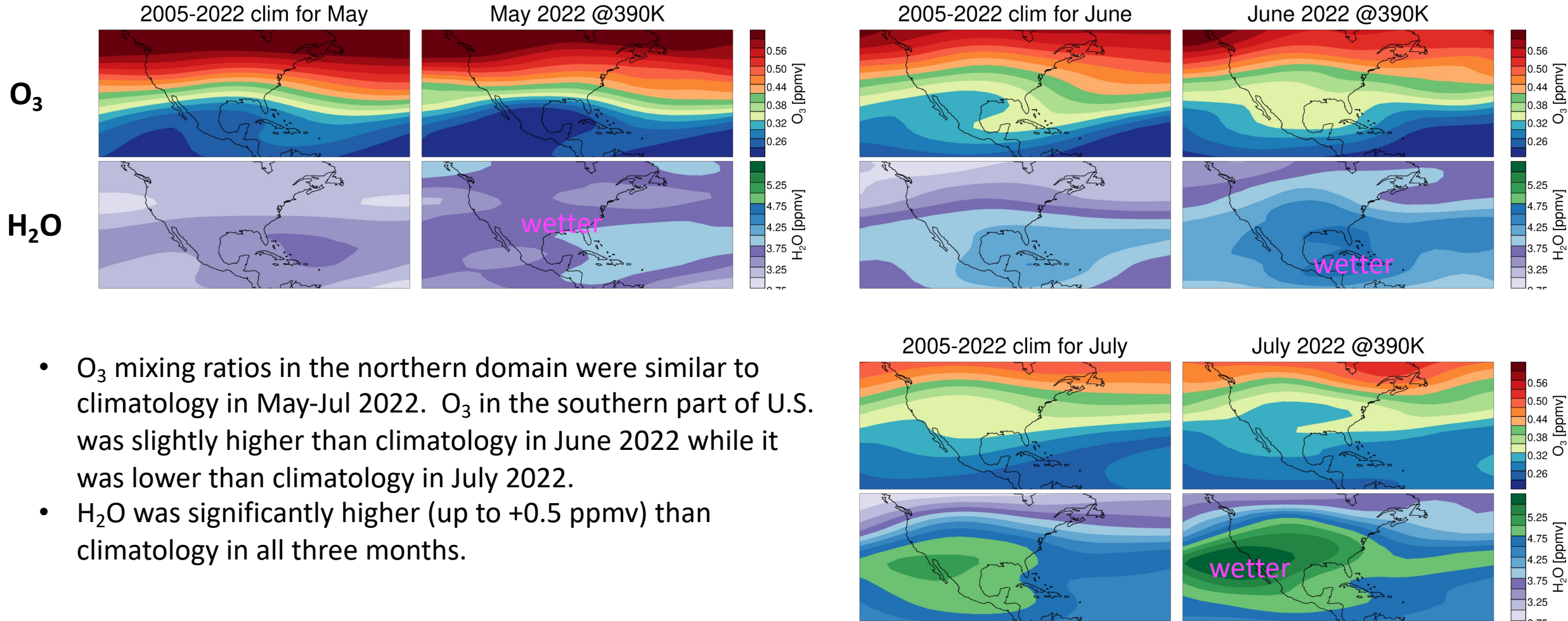


- Less O_3 (-30 ppb) than climatology in July 2021 in the southern part of U.S., while weaker meridional gradient in O_3 was observed in northern U.S. in August 2021.
- July 2021 was wetter (+0.2 ppmv) than climatology within the NAMA (i.e., SW flight domain).
- August 2021 was also generally wetter within the NAMA, but concentrations within our flight domain appear to be similar to climatology.

Lower-stratospheric O₃ and H₂O (2022)

Aura MLS tracers at 390K

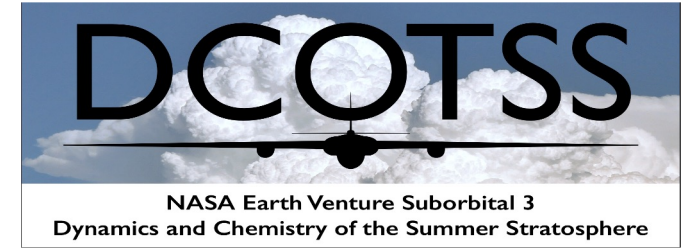
(courtesy of Luis Millán)



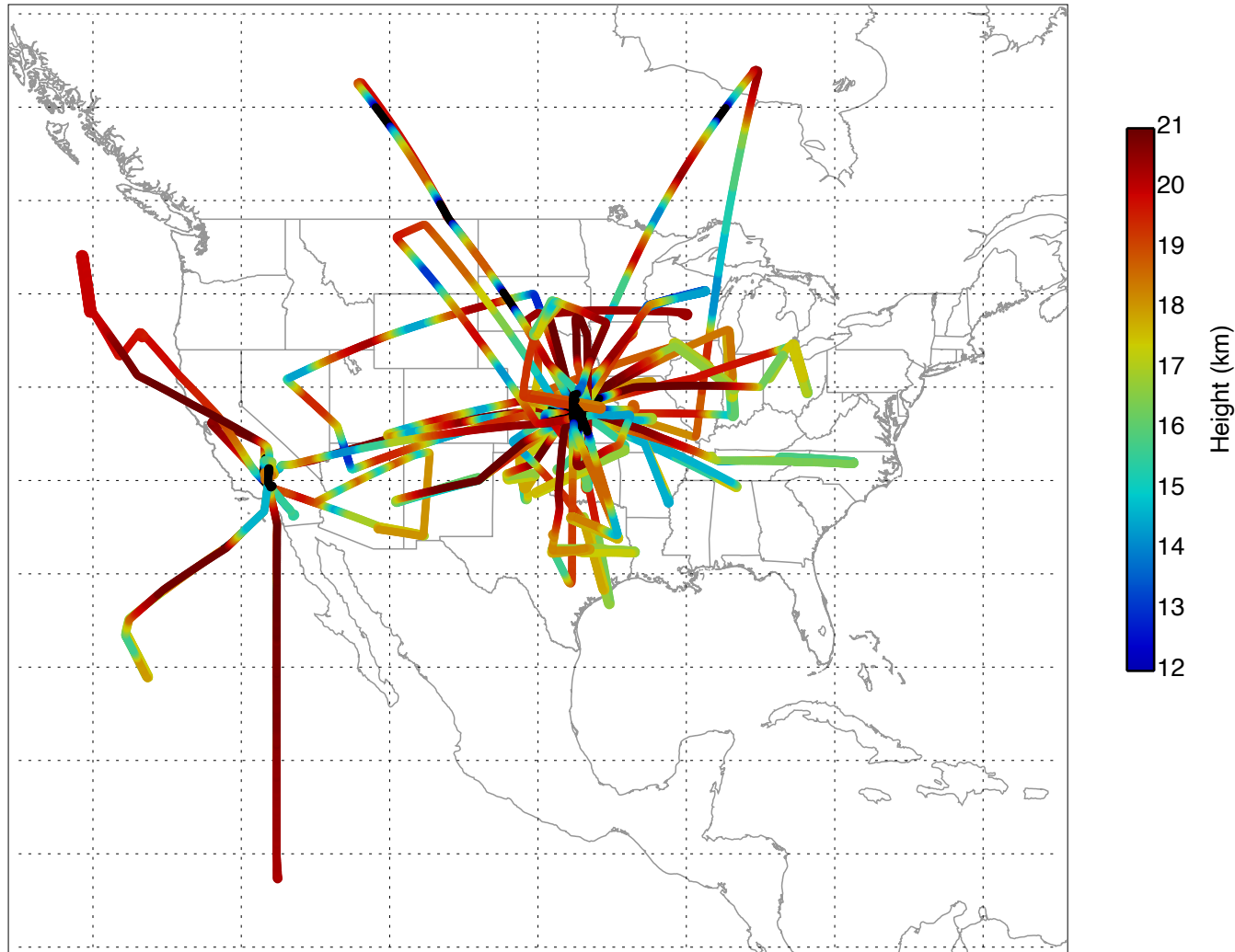
Summary

- NAM anticyclone was anomalously strong during the 2021 (Jul-Aug) deployment as well as towards the end of the 2022 deployment (Jul).
- Convective (overshoot) activity over CONUS was below average during most of our 2021 and 2022 deployment, except during May 2022 when anomalously frequent deep convection was observed over the Midwestern U.S.
- Sierra Madre convection started early in June 2022 and remained relatively strong through July, allowing us to sample its outflow during 2022 deployment.
- Despite the relatively infrequent overshooting convection during our deployment months, the lower stratosphere over NAM was anomalously wet, especially in summer 2022.
- Lower stratospheric ozone distribution within our flight domain was generally similar to climatology, though with larger perturbations to the south.

Science flights in 2021 and 2022

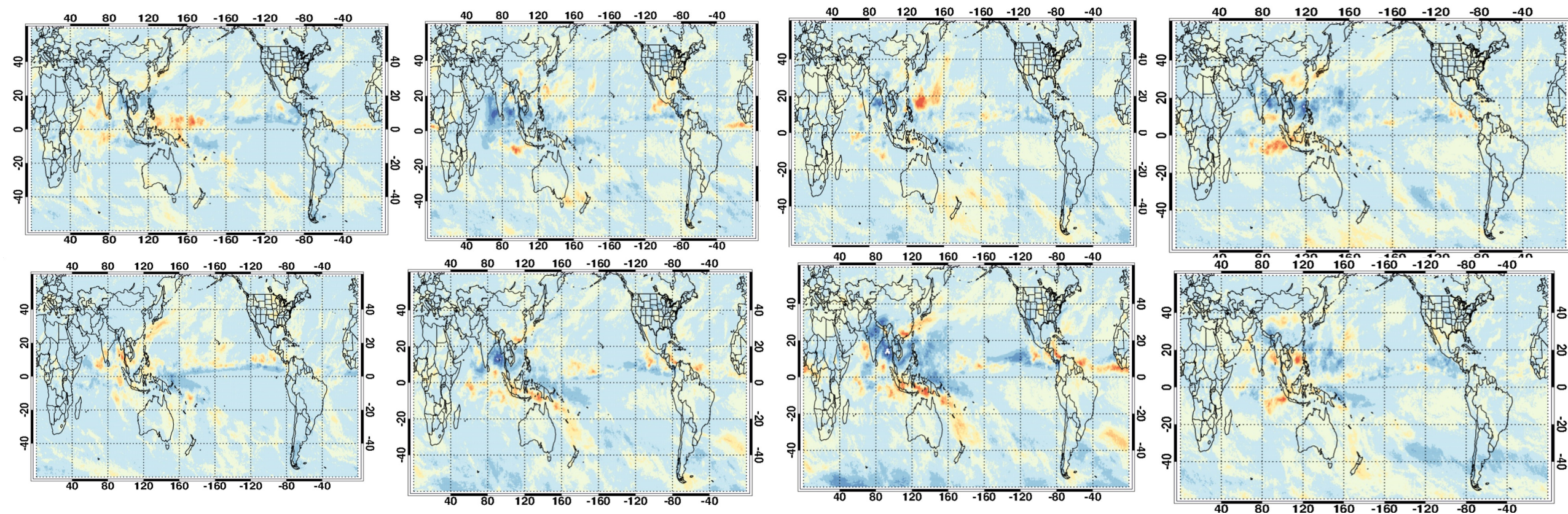
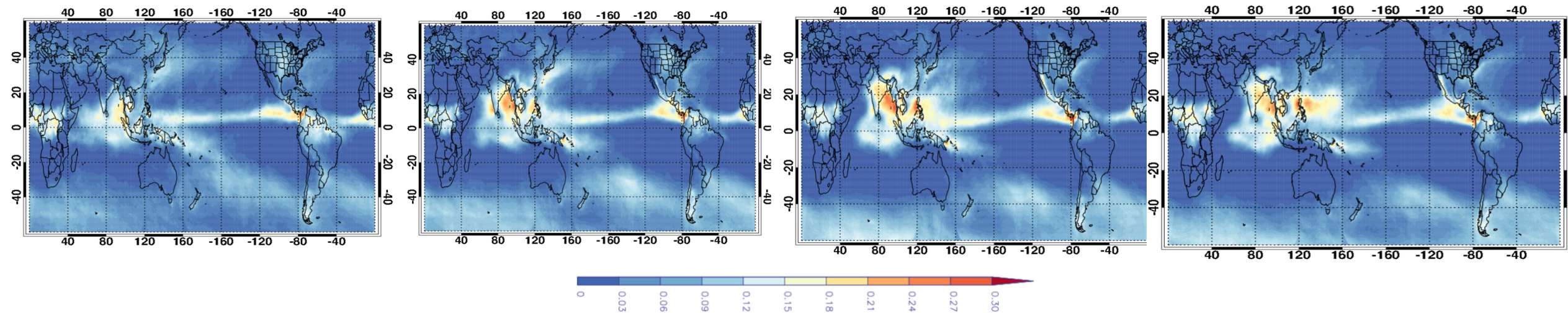


DCOTSS Flight Paths



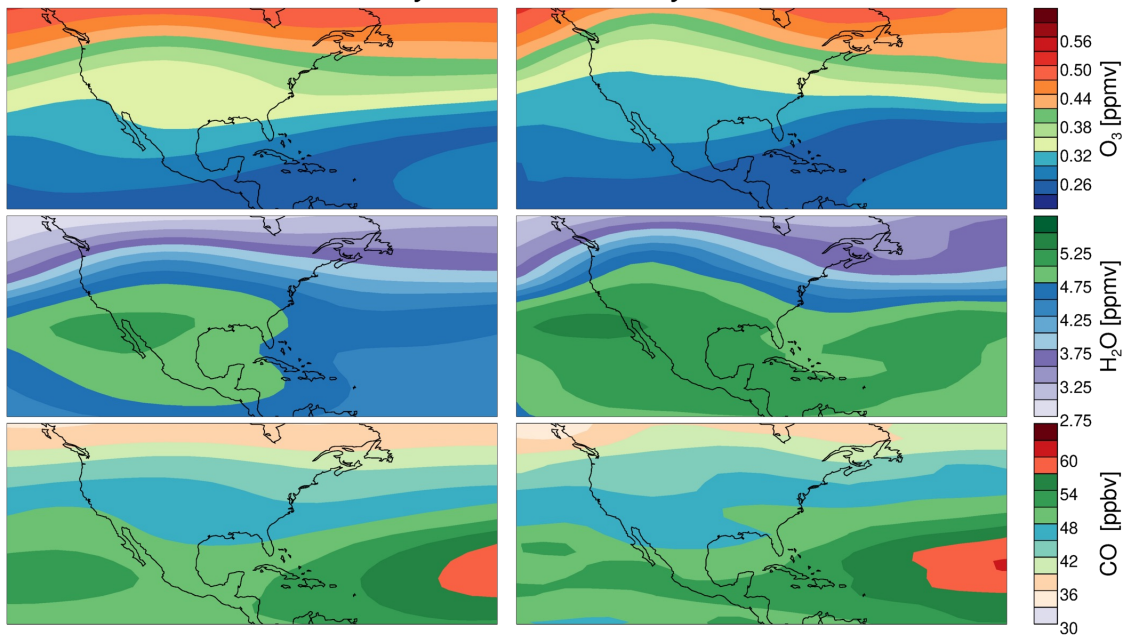
- 11 science flights in 2021 (Jul 16 – Aug 19)
- 12 science flights in 2022 (May 29 - Jul 11)

(courtesy E. Jensen)



2005-2022 clim for July

July 2021 @390K



2005-2022 clim for August

August 2021 @390K

